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The Harris Survey
Most Feel Fulbright Hearings Led to Better Understanding

By Louis Harris
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Most Americans who have followed the Fulbright Committee hearings on Vietnam and China policy feel the result has been a better understanding of United States objectives in Asia. Moreover, the hearings apparently have not greatly damaged public confidence in either Secretary of State Dean Rusk or Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara.

Rusk's over-all job rating with the people stands at 62 to 38 per cent positive, with McNamara at 58 to 42 per cent favorable. Both of President Johnson's key advisers therefore achieve a level of public acceptance higher at the moment than that (55 per cent) for the President himself.

Rusk and McNamara, original members of the Kennedy Cabinet, are both well known figures to about two of every three Americans. In contrast, only half the public can identify Senator Fulbright. Only 37 per cent claim to have followed his recent hearings, but more than a majority of Americans with college education are in this group.

Among people with opinions, more feel that Sen. Fulbright has been helpful (55%) than believe he has been harmful (45%). The same cannot be said for a member of his committee and another opponent of the Vietnam war, Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon. Six out of ten rate Morse as more harmful than helpful and 45 per cent classify him as a "radical."

A carefully drawn cross-section

tion of the American people was asked:

"Have you or haven't you followed the Senate hearings Sen. Fulbright has been conducting in Washington on Vietnam and China?" and "(if followed) do you think the Fulbright Committee hearings on Vietnam and China have helped people such as yourself to better understand the war in Vietnam, have they confused things, have they set back American unity, or have they not made much difference one way or the other?"

Fulbright Hearings

	Total Public
Followed	37
Didn't Follow	63

FOLLOWED HEARINGS

Reaction to hearings	
Helped Understanding	44
Confused Things	23
Set Back Unity	9
Not Much Difference	16
Not Sure	6

The hearings do not seem to have dimmed public confidence in either McNamara or Rusk. People were asked:

"How would you rate the job Dean Rusk is doing as Secretary of State—excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?" And "how would you rate the job Robert McNamara is doing as Secretary of Defense—excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?"

Rusk, McNamara Ratings

	Good Rusk %	Excellent McNamara %
Nationwide	62	58
By Region		
East	63	59
Midwest	62	55
South	60	61
West	59	55
By Education		
8th Grade or Less	65	54
High School	64	55
College	57	62

When asked to spell out what they liked and didn't like about Rusk and McNamara, people expressed sharp differences. Rusk was praised for "doing the best he can"; McNamara for being taut and efficient. Rusk was respected for "going along with LBJ"; Mc-

Namara for "being a good partner of LBJ."

Rusk was criticized for being "too cautious"; McNamara for being "too bold and brazen" especially in cutting back and closing down politically sensitive military installations at home. Rusk was criticized for being "unclear and uncertain about Vietnam"; McNamara for being "too confident and too certain" that the war could be won soon and decisively.